

USSN: 10/074,758

5

Docket No.: DE010040 US

REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the non-final Office Action mailed June 5, 2003. In that Action, the Examiner notes that claims 1-7 are pending and that claims 1-7 are rejected. By this response, claims 1-7 are amended. As explained below, all of the pending claims are patentable.

Oath/Declaration

The Office Action requires a new oath or declaration. In response, Applicant's note that while Jüstel and Gläser are the correct German spellings, in English the spellings Juestel and Glaeser are proper since English lacks letters ä, ü, and ö. Thus, Juestel and Glaeser as used on the Declaration are the true and correct English names. Accordingly, withdrawal of the requirement for a new declaration is requested.

The Specification

The Office Action objects to the disclosure. In response, Applicants amend the specification to add appropriate headings. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office action objects to claims 1 and 4-8 (as only claims 1-7 exist, Applicant understands the objection to be directed to claims 1 and 4-7). While Applicant respectfully traverses those objections, claims 1-7 are amended to improve clarity. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 4-8 is respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Jüstel et al. (US Patent 6,559,598; hereinafter Jüstel). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites:

"A plasma picture screen provided with a front plate comprising a glass plate to which a dielectric layer, a UV-reflecting layer, and a

USSN: 10/074,758

6

Docket No.: DE010040 US

protective layer are applied, with a back plate provided with a phosphor layer, with a ribbed structure subdividing the space between the front plate and the back plate into plasma cells which are filled with a gas, and with one or more electrode arrays on the front plate and the back plate for generating corona discharges in the plasma cells, wherein UV light with a wavelength of > 172 nm is produced by said discharges; and wherein said protective layer contacts the gas. (Emphasis added).

For at least the above-emphasized features, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7 are allowable.

Jüstel discloses two plasma picture screens, both having a front plate comprised of a glass plate 1 to which a dielectric layer 4 is attached. As shown in Figure 1 of Jüstel, a protective layer 5 is on the dielectric layer 4; a UV emitting layer 8 is on the protective layer 5; and the UV-emitting layer contacts the plasma 9 that is formed in a gas. The other embodiment, shown in Figure 2, has a protective layer 5 contacting the plasma 9 formed in the gas, but the UV emitting layer 8 is on the back plate.

The Examiner's attention is directed to column 6, lines 58-61 of Jüstel for a discussion of adding a UV-reflecting layer. Such a UV-reflecting layer is described as being on the protective layer 5 or between the protective layer and the UV-emitting layer 8. In either case, the UV-reflecting layer is between the protective layer 5 and the gas.

In contrast to Jüstel, claim 1 recites a front plate with a UV-reflecting layer and a protective layer that contacts a gas. Jüstel teaches, reference Figures 1 and 2 and their supporting text, a UV-emitting layer 8, not a UV-reflecting layer. In Figure 1, the UV-emitting layer 8 covers the protective layer 5. In Figure 2, the UV-emitting layer 8 is on the back plate. Thus claim 1 is readily distinguished from the illustrated embodiments of Jüstel. When Jüstel suggests adding a UV-reflecting layer to the front plate (reference column 6, lines 58-61) that UV-reflecting layer is discussed as being between the protective layer 5 and the UV-emitting layer 8, or over the protective layer 5. In either case the protective layer 5 never contacts a gas. Therefore, claim 1 is readily distinguished from the teachings of Jüstel relating to a UV-reflecting layer.

USSN: 10/074,758

7

Docket No.: DE010040 US

Furthermore, since claims 2-7 depend from allowable claim 1, claims 2-7 are also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

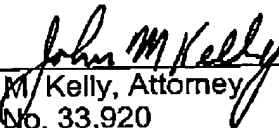
CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that all the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly requested.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone call would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Mr. Eric Bram at (914) 333-9635. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the address of record (not to the signing attorney).

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or if any additional fees are required, kindly charge that fee to deposit account number 20-0782.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Kelly, Attorney
Reg. No. 33,920
(732) 530-9404

Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
Attorneys at Law
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Suite 100
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
Telephone: 732-530-9404
Facsimile: 732-530-9808

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

SEP 03 2003

OFFICIAL